

MARINES DEPLOYMENT



▼ **CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Marines gather in an auditorium here April 16 to remember Lance Cpl. Levi T. Angell, 20, from St. Louis, Minn. Angell, a truck driver with Combat Service Support Company 111, was killed in action April 8 while delivering supplies in support of Operation Vigilant Resolve. He was the first Marine from the company to die in combat. “He made you feel like you were family,” said friend Lance Cpl. Nolan H. Peterson, 22, a truck driver who grew up near Angell in Barnum, another small town in northern Minnesota. “That feeling is important because we’re all so far away from our own families.”

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

03:05
2004

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif. – The Bronze Star with a V, the nation's fourth highest award for bravery, heroism or meritorious service, is awarded to 1st Lt. Joshua R. Bates for his actions as a platoon commander for Combined Antiarmor Team Red, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The “V” signifies the award resulted from an act of combat heroism or valor.



< **CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Lance Cpl. Matthew Palacios reads a card sent by Ray and Beth Sears in the Bravo Surgical Company’s trauma ward here Dec. 1. The Sears, from Tilton, N.H., sent cards and cookies to lift the spirits of service members deployed to Iraq. In one card they wrote, “thanks for protecting our freedoms. We’re thinking and praying for all the troops. Take care and stay strong.” Palacios, 19, is a native of Lorraine, Ohio, and a combat engineer attached to 2nd Platoon, B Co., 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. He was wounded during Operation Al Fajr.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

▼ **CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq** – A sign at the gate here reminds all who exit the camp’s perimeter of the potential danger of insurgent attacks along Iraq’s highways. As of Aug. 21, three platoons with B Company, 2nd Military Police Battalion, from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., have escorted more than 400 convoys with more than 8,000 vehicles across 75,000 miles, said Capt. Amy R. Ebitz, the company commander. Two other platoons operate out of different bases in the Al Anbar Province.



< **CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Marines, sailors and soldiers with Regimental Combat Team 1 enjoy Independence Day in and out of the swimming pool at the Rest and Relaxation Center here July 4. The Fourth of July bash included food, sports, a talent show and a disc jockey. “It’s important to celebrate Independence Day, especially in Iraq, to remind everyone why we’re here,” said Master Sgt. Albis Delrosario, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the center. RCT-1 is part of 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen



< **ASH SHAFIYAH, Iraq** – Lance Cpl. Brandy L. Guerrero, kisses an Iraqi baby waiting to be examined during a humanitarian assistance operation here Nov. 12. Guerrero is a radio operator with Communications Detachment, MEU Service Support Group 11, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. MSSG-11 organized the medical/dental civilian assistance program visit with help from the soldiers of Detachment 1, C Company, 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to the MEU. The Marines, sailors and soldiers processed 464 Iraqis and provided medical and dental treatment to more than 115. Others received food, water and gifts, including soccer balls, toys, backpacks, school supplies and hygiene items.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Chago Zapata

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

03:15
2004

HAITI – Combined Joint Task Force-Haiti officially activates and Marine Brig. Gen. Ronald S. Coleman assumes command of the Multinational Interim Force. The task force consists of the air element of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force and French, Canadian and Chilean forces. It is here to help bring stability to the people of Haiti.



> **AL ASAD, Iraq** – Sgt. Maj. Steve M. Golder meets Santa Claus and tells him what he wants for Christmas. Golder is the squadron sergeant major for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Santa visited the squadron during a Christmas party here to deliver presents and lift the Marines' spirits.

Photo by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte



< **USS BELLEAU WOOD, SAN DIEGO** — Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit board USS Belleau Wood here March 23. The LHA is the flagship for Expeditionary Strike Group 3, comprised of amphibious warships USS Belleau Wood, Denver, and Comstock; destroyers USS Hopper and Preble; cruiser USS Mobile Bay; and fast attack submarine USS Charlotte. This force combines with elements of the Camp Pendleton-based 11th MEU to produce a national defense asset capable of conducting sustained combat operations and humanitarian assistance from sea or shore. Brig. Gen. Joseph V. Medina took command of ESG-3 in November of last year, becoming the first Marine officer to command an ESG. ESG-3 deployed in June.

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex Stanislawski



< **MCB CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** — Sgt. Peter Stewart types identification card information for Marines preparing to board an aircraft bound for Kuwait July 7. Stewart is an administrative clerk with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit command element. The Marines traveled to Kuwait first for acclimatization and further training before moving into Iraq.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers

> **MCB CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — Cpl. Andy Vaney has blood drawn at the 13 Area Medical Clinic here July 1. More than 175 Individual Ready Reserve Marines are at Camp Tulega training or waiting to replace Marines killed or wounded in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These Marines voluntarily left their civilian lives for activation and deployment. Vaney is an infantryman with Mobilization Support Battalion.

Photo by Sgt. L.A. Salinas



Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

03:26
2004

AFGHANISTAN – The United States sends 2,000 Marines to Afghanistan to reinforce the 12,000 troops already here to intensify the hunt for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida and Taliban leaders. The U.S. military, together with Pakistani forces, is pursuing terrorists in tribal areas on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.



▲ **FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Marines of A Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, occupy an abandoned house in one of the neighborhoods here Nov. 14. During the push into Fallujah as part of Operation Al Fajr, Marines set up temporary bases in abandoned houses and buildings. For days, these were the only places Marines were able to unwind and rest from the fighting outside. The Marines also conducted foot patrols from these bases, checking neighboring houses for weapons caches and documenting those used by the enemy.

Photo by Cpl. Randy Bernard

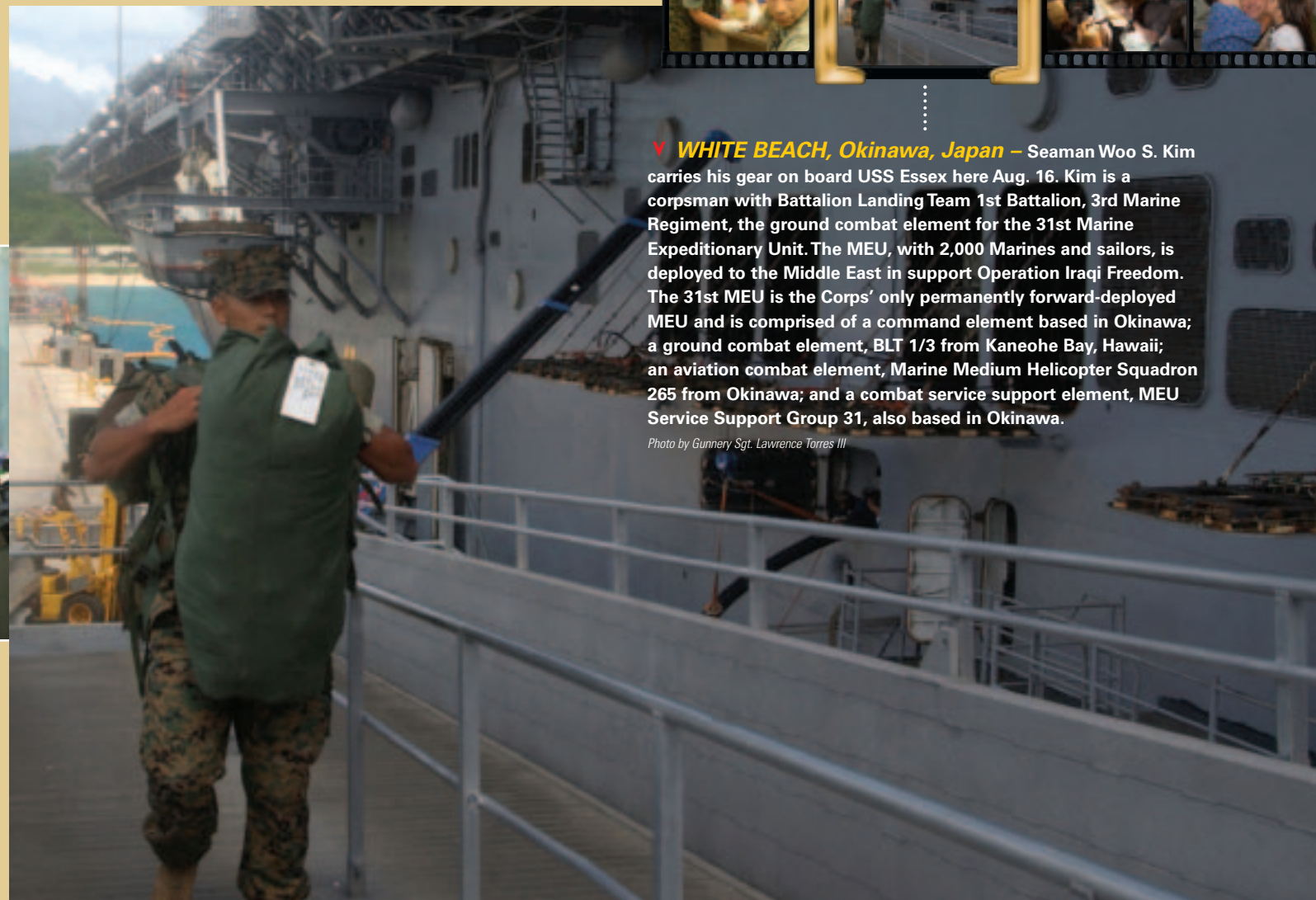
▼ **PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** – Sgt. Jeremy Garcia reads “The Globe,” the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., newspaper, while deployed here March 19 for Operation Secure Tomorrow. The Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment Marine received the paper and other items from his wife during their first mail call. The U.S.-led multinational interim force of about 3,300 from the United States, France, Chile and Canada started arriving here Feb. 29 to quell civil unrest throughout the city.

Photo by Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton



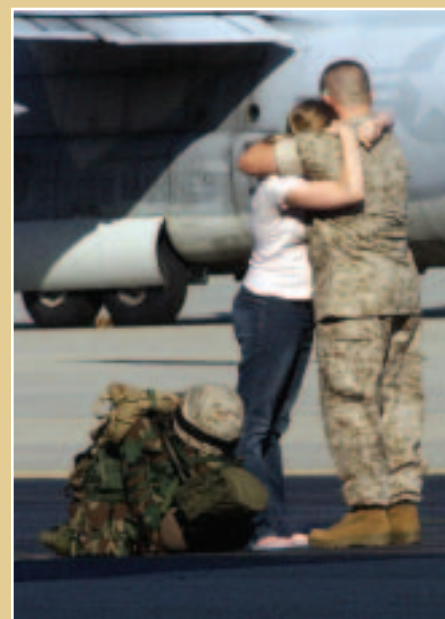
▼ **SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** – Marines from Scout Sniper Platoon, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, take advantage of down time to call friends and family during sustainment training here June 3. The MEU was on its way to support security and stability operations in response to a request from U.S. Central Command for more forces in Iraq.

Photo by Cpl. Matthew S. Richards



▼ **WHITE BEACH, Okinawa, Japan** – Seaman Woo S. Kim carries his gear on board USS Essex here Aug. 16. Kim is a corpsman with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, the ground combat element for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The MEU, with 2,000 Marines and sailors, is deployed to the Middle East in support Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 31st MEU is the Corps’ only permanently forward-deployed MEU and is comprised of a command element based in Okinawa; a ground combat element, BLT 1/3 from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; an aviation combat element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 from Okinawa; and a combat service support element, MEU Service Support Group 31, also based in Okinawa.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence Torres III



◀ **NEW YORK** – Lance Cpl. Christopher Edwards and his wife Danielle share a last moment together before Edwards leaves for the Middle East. The reserve Marines of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452 deployed from Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh Aug. 24 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is the unit’s third deployment. It was activated for Operation Enduring Freedom in January 2002, and deployed to Bahrain last year. The unit maintains and flies KC-130T Hercules aircraft.

Photo by Cpl. Beth Zimmerman

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

04:01
2004

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq – 1st Force Service Support Group’s medical logistics section distributes more than \$800,000 worth of medical supplies to Iraqis in this province. The supplies include everything from multivitamins for children and arthritis and pain medication for the elderly, to antidepressants for Iraqis suffering from mental health illnesses. Freedom and Peace Trust – a charitable organization working with the Marine Corps – purchased the supplies with funds donated by U.S. corporations and collected by Direct Relief International.



▼ SAN DIEGO – Lance Cpl. Mario Reyes, of Chicago, says a final goodbye to his family on his cellular phone Jan. 14 before boarding the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer. The Boxer departed on a deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The Boxer will provide amphibious lift for a portion of the I Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing equipment and personnel from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark J. Rebilas

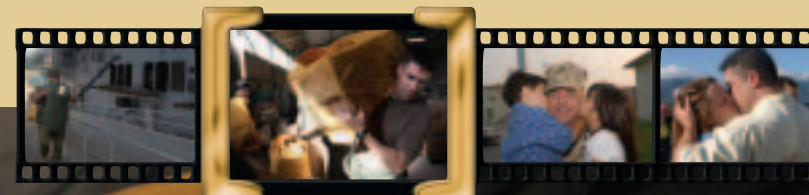
▲ KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait – Civilian contractors install new side paneling on a humvee from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit here July 17. The side paneling is part of the new up-armor being placed on MEU vehicles. The up-armor provides 360 degrees of protection for Marines in a vehicle by covering the gunner's turret, undercarriage and sides of the vehicle. The MEU was in Kuwait for training and final preparations before deployment to Iraq. The contractors – from more than 25 countries – work in two 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, in temperatures up to 120 degrees, to ensure the Marines' vehicles are protected. More than 60 humvees and 7-ton trucks from the MEU were fitted with the new armor plates.

Photo by Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon



◀ AL ANBAR PROVINCE – Staff Sgt. Keith A. Taylor cuts the hair of Gunnery Sgt. Ricardo Campos during a small sandstorm here March 12. Both Marines deployed Feb. 20 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Taylor is a Mira Mesa, Calif., native and Campos hails from Robstown, Texas.

Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III



▼ CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq – Cpl. Chris A. Perry, an airframe mechanic with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 (Reinforced), carries a box to the appropriate bin inside the post office here Nov. 27. Perry, a 22-year-old Louisville, Ky., native, volunteered to help sort holiday mail at the post office. 1st Force Service Support Group delivers food, water, ammunition, fuel, medical supplies, and mail to other Marine forces in Iraq. Dozens of Marines at Camp Taqaddum volunteered to help the postal clerks sort through the increased volume of holiday mail. In October, the post office received nearly two million pounds of mail. In the first three weeks of November, they received more than two and a half million pounds. As Christmas approaches, the Marine postal clerks expect even more mail to arrive.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Goodwin



▲ CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq – Marines with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, an artillery battalion from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., mass around a cake here Nov. 10 following a ceremony honoring the Marine Corps' 229th birthday. Marines gathered to celebrate this year's birthday with a cake cutting ceremony, the reading of Gen. John A. Lejeune's birthday message, and the recognition of the youngest and oldest Marine present.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Caleb W. Sparks

Year in Review
 ON THIS DATE:

04:08
 2004

POLE-E CHARKHI, Afghanistan – Retired Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Ermey, host of the History Channel's "Mail Call" series, visits Marines assigned to the Afghanistan National Army Training Detachment. The 14 Marines of the detachment deployed from various Training and Education Command billets throughout the United States, five months prior. They are assigned as embedded trainers to the Afghan National Army Quick Reaction Force Commando Battalion.